

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Torrance Police Department



HOLIDAY PERSONAL SAFETY & SECURITY TIPS

As the holiday season approaches we would like to remind you of a few safety tips.....

- We all want our homes to reflect the joy of the season, but avoid displaying gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- Arrange to have packages delivered to a neighbor if you're not home to receive them.
- Packages left on porches or doorsteps are "easy picking" for thieves. It also draws unwanted attention to your home.
- Consider simple outside decorations. Elaborate or large lawn pieces are often stolen right out of the lawn.
- Be sure not to obscure the view from your windows. You need a clear view of your property.
- Always lock your home's doors and windows, even if you're only gone for a few minutes.
- Compact or dispose of packaging discreetly. Often criminals will spot something you've discarded and can target you for their next burglary or theft.
- Notify the Torrance Police Department when you're planning an extended absence. They can issue a Vacation Security Check for your home. www.torranceca.gov/TPD/14699.htm

WHAT IS YOUR CAR SCREAMING OUT TO THIEVES?



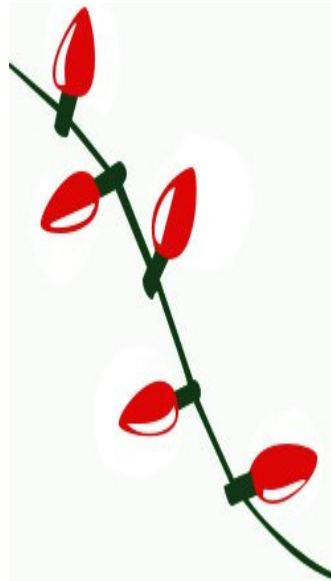
- Always lock your car and close the windows, even if you're only gone a few moments. When possible, lock all merchandise or packages in the trunk of your car. Load your packages before departing, not at the next location.
- Avoid leaving packages or shopping bags visible in your car.
- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you. Look inside your car and around it as you approach.
- Plan your trips. Instead of one big shopping trip, try several small ones. This will cut down on the amount of money you carry, the packages you'll be encumbered with, and it will make your shopping less stressful.
- Park in well lit areas. Have your car key in your hand as you approach or leave your vehicle. If attacked use those keys as weapons!
- Always report any suspicious or criminal activity to the Police.

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Inside this issue:

The Great Shakeout	2
Meet your new Community Affairs Team	3
Partners in Policing	3
Halloween Safety Tips	4
Torrance Fire and Police Toy Drive	4
Tip-A-Cop	4
Community Safety Training	4





The Great California ShakeOut

Annual Statewide Earthquake Drill

Individuals and Families Get Ready to ShakeOut!

At 10:20 a.m. on October 20, 2011, millions of Californians will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in *The Great California ShakeOut*, the largest earthquake drill ever! Everyone is encouraged to participate in the drill wherever you are at 10:20 a.m. on 10/20!

Major earthquakes may happen anywhere you work, live, or travel in California. The ShakeOut is our chance to practice how to protect ourselves, and for everyone to become prepared. The goal is to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes.

Why is having a "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill important? As with anything, to act quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake before strong shaking knocks you down, or before something falls on you.

Over 7.9 million Southern Californians participated in the 2010 ShakeOut. Now statewide, the *Great California ShakeOut* will be held on the third Thursday of October each year.

Everyone can participate! Individuals, families, businesses, schools, government agencies and organizations are all invited to register.

For an overview of the Shakeout go to www.ShakeOut.org



The City of Torrance will be participating in The Great California ShakeOut

Saturday, October 15th 2011 @ 9am-1pm

All Neighborhood Watch members that have attended the Map Your Neighborhood training are invited to participate in a neighborhood drill, in which we will practice the steps you learned during your training. Neighborhood Watch members not yet trained in MYN are encouraged to observe. You will also have the opportunity to watch the City's Disaster Service Volunteers drill.

You may register to participate in the City drill by calling Kathi Galbasin at (310) 370-3294 or emailing Kathi at kathleen.galbasin@verizon.net, by Monday, October 10th.

The ShakeOut drill will be located at 20604 Entradero Ave., 2 blocks south of Del Amo Blvd., 1 block west of Victor St. on Saturday, October 15th 2011. MYN participants must wear their PPE's and be on site by 9:00AM.



As a registered ShakeOut participant you will:

- Learn what you can do to get prepared
- Receive ShakeOut news and other earthquake information
- Be counted in the largest earthquake drill ever!
- Set an example that motivates others to participate

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MEET YOUR NEW COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TEAM



**Officer
Erik Eidet**

Officer Eidet has worked for the Torrance Police Department for over 7 years and has worked several different details including Communications, Patrol, School Resource Officer (SRO) and Field Training Officer (FTO). He was reassigned to the Community Affairs Division in August 2011. Officer Eidet can be reached at 310-618-6391 or eeidet@TorranceCA.gov



**Services Officer
Christina Szczypkowski**

Services Officer Szczypkowski (pronounced Zip-cow-ski) has worked for the Torrance Police Department for over 9 years and has worked in the Jail, Front Desk and as a Jail Training Officer. She was reassigned to the Community Affairs Division in August 2011. Services Officer Szczypkowski can be reached at 310-618-6392 or cszczypkowski@TorranceCA.gov



Have you ever wanted to walk in the shoes of a Police Officer...?

The next Partners in Policing (PIP) class will begin on October 20, 2011. This program is open to all Torrance residents, people that work in Torrance and anyone else that has affiliations with the City (i.e. people that attend school in Torrance, are members of a church in Torrance, members of civic organizations based in Torrance such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, etc). Registration for this class fills up quickly. "Partners In Policing" is a Community Awareness Program that educates the community through those who are currently the closest to us, our Neighborhood Watch Members along with community members and business organizations. The Program allows for the community to "walk in the shoes of an officer," and experience hands-on exercises relating to the duties, services and responsibilities of policing. Participants will see a SWAT and Canine demonstration, meet Crime Scene Investigators and interact with a variety of officers from the details within the department. Through the Partners In Policing Program, the community gains a better understanding of the policing function and in turn the Torrance Police Department receives valuable input regarding the community policing needs. As of this date, we have graduated 27 classes, totaling approximately 850 community members. Classes with 25-40 participants are held twice a year. By graduation time, the participants have gone through 13 sessions involving everything from the police academy to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals. They have learned why we do certain things and had the opportunity to actually experience certain training scenarios. Through our interactions, we have certainly strengthened our partnership and together have gained valuable insights. The Partners In Policing Program is offered to all community members and local organizations. We currently offer two classes per year. For information on upcoming classes, please contact Officer Erik Eidet at (310) 618-6391. The current class is currently full as of 15 Sep 2011. Please check back with us on this site for future class dates.

Community Events

TORRANCE POLICE AND FIRE HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

The holiday season is quickly approaching and with it so is our annual toy collection. We will begin collecting toys Wednesday, November 16th. If you would like to donate a new unwrapped toy (please **NO USED** toys or stuffed animals), or a food certificate, you may do so at the following locations:

*Torrance Police Department:

3300 Civic Center Dr.

Torrance Fire Stations:

#1 1701 Crenshaw Blvd.

#2 25135 Robinson Way

#3 3535 W. 182nd St.

#4 5205 Calle Mayor

#5 3940 Del Amo Blvd.

#6 21401 Del Amo Circle Dr.



If you know of a family that is in need of assistance please contact Christina Szczypkowski at (310) 618-6392. They must be City of Torrance residents (with proof of residency) or attend TUSD schools.

Disaster Preparedness Award 2011



Congratulations Sumie Imada and The New Horizon's Disaster Management Team

COMMUNITY SAFETY TRAINING WORKSHOP

Seniors "Don't Be Scammed"

Street Scams & Distraction Burglaries

DATE: Tuesday, November 15th, 2011

TIME: 10am-12pm

LOCATION: Torrance Main Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd.

The City of Torrance Community Services and Torrance Police Department join together to sponsor a fact-filled, informative and enlightening series for our Torrance Senior Community on how to avoid becoming a victim of street scams and distraction burglaries.

The **Tip-A-Cop** program is an activity to benefit children and adults with mild to severe mental retardation. Police officers partner with regular servers addressing customer requests such as beverage refills and serving their meals, working hard to EARN donation for a good cause. Customers offer an additional tip beyond the regular server's tip as a donation to South Bay Special Olympics. **100%** of tips/donations received by the Police Officers **goes directly to the South Bay Special Olympics program**. Donations help pay for training, uniforms, transportation, and competition fees. Nothing goes to administrative fees. So far this year, the Torrance Police Department has raised..



\$3025.00

The next Tip-A-Cop will be **Wednesday, November 16th**, from 5 pm to 9 pm at The Elephant Bar Restaurant located at 21227 Hawthorne Blvd.



Halloween Safety Tips

Make sure children are accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager when they go door to door. Go with them yourself if you can.

Instruct children never to eat anything until they've returned home and the treats have been examined.

Check wrappers of commercial treats for tampering.

Make sure costumes fit and youngsters can see well.

Use reflective tape on costumes so people driving cars can see children.

Try using makeup instead of a mask.

